

"No" on rollcall 321, Solomon amendment to H.R. 3756.

"No" on rollcall 322, Gutknecht amendment to H.R. 3756.

"Yes" on rollcall 323, on passage of H.R. 3756.

"Yes" on rollcall 324, motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3166, Government Accountability Act of 1996.

"Yes" on rollcall 325, motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3161, extend most-favored-nation status to Romania.

"Yes" on rollcall 326, motion to close portions of the conference on H.R. 3230, fiscal 1997 Defense authorization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on July 17 and 18, 1996 for rollcall votes 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, and 331. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, and 331, and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 329 and 330. I request that the RECORD reflect my positions on these votes.

TRIBUTE TO VILLAGE OF ORCHARD PARK ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my enthusiastic congratulations to the village of Orchard Park, in New York's 30th Congressional District, on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Founded in the early 19th century by Quakers, Orchard Park originally fell under the charter of the town of East Hamburg, NY. A group of concerned citizens petitioned the town of East Hamburg for the incorporation of the village of Orchard Park on August 21, 1921, and on October 18, the measure was subsequently ratified by a vote of 155 to 96.

Throughout its celebrated history, the village of Orchard Park has steadfastly demonstrated its distinct sense of civic loyalty and pride through its dedication to local education, financial development in its business and retail districts, and careful maintenance of the village's original charm of 1921.

As a former teacher in the Orchard Park Central School District, I have seen first hand the village's dedicated commitment to its residents, distinguished community service, and strong sense of community spirit and pride.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the residents of the village of Orchard Park, village Mayor Patricia Dickman, the members of the village board, and indeed, our entire western New York community in warm tribute to the village of Orchard Park on the occasion of this historic anniversary, and send my personal best wishes for continued prosperity in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MINISTER JOHN CHANG

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to see that Mr. John Chang has been appointed the new foreign minister of the Republic of China.

Educated at Georgetown University, Mr. John Chang is a career diplomat. His most recent post was minister of the Overseas Chinese Commission, Republic of China.

Minister Chang speaks fluent English and French. An avid swimmer, he also excels in tennis and golf. He is married and has three children.

Under Minister Chang's leadership, I believe that the Republic of China and the United States will become even closer partners in trade and other matters vital to the interests of both nations. It is my personal hope that the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China will soon engage in serious discussions—as equal partners—of their eventual reunification and that the Republic of China will soon be able to participate in the activities of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

In the meantime I send my best wishes and congratulations to Foreign Minister John Chang of the Republic of China.

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION ACT OF 1996

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to introduce a bill cosponsored by Representatives GREENWOOD, MCKEON, FATTAH, FAWELL, CLINGER, and GEKAS which corrects a technical problem with the language of the Higher Education Act that thwarts competition among lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program and results in higher costs for students in need of unsubsidized student loans.

The Higher Education Act as interpreted by the U.S. Department of Education allows lenders to pay origination fees—3 percent of the loan amount—charged a student at the time as subsidized loan is obtained; one where the Federal Government pays the interest on the student's behalf while in school. Unfortunately, the Department has interpreted the language of the Higher Education Act to prohibit lenders from paying origination fees—3 percent of the loan amount—charged a student if the student obtains an unsubsidized loan one where the student is responsible for all the interest.

The result is that student's obtaining unsubsidized student loans are forced to pay higher up-front costs simply because of an interpretation that we believe is incorrect.

Under the bill being introduced today, anyone may pay the origination fees on behalf of the student borrower. This is particularly significant in Pennsylvania because of the loan programs administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. For the

1995–96 school year—prior to the Department's ruling on the origination fee issue—students and families in Pennsylvania had an extra \$2 million available for immediate educational expenses due to a special loan program which reduced a student's origination fee from 3 to 1 percent. More than 36,000 students received this benefit for the 1995–96 school year. If we allow the Department of Education's interpretation to stand, more than 9,300 students, in Pennsylvania will have to forego the benefit of reduced up-front fees and we don't think that should happen.

The great thing about this proposal is that it doesn't cost the Federal Government a dime, while student's reap the benefits of competition in the student loan program.

And this doesn't just help Pennsylvania students. Lenders across the country can offer to pay a student's origination fees so students have more cash to pay for their higher education expenses. Reduced interest rates are already being offered by many lenders as a reward for making monthly payments on time and this is also a feature offered by the Pennsylvania program which helps students save a little money during the repayment period. The combined effect of reduced up-front costs and lower interest rates during repayment make all student loans more affordable and manageable for students.

I am particularly pleased to include for the RECORD, a letter from the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators who have expressed their wholehearted support for this legislation. These are the people on the front lines in the student financial aid office who daily advise and counsel our college students on ways to finance a college education and I am delighted to have their support.

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS,

July 3, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM F. GOODLING,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE GOODLING: The Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) is a professional organization dedicated to promoting access to higher education by providing financial assistance to those who might otherwise be unable to attend. With more than 550 members, the PASFAA membership encompasses virtually every segment of higher education and every component of student financial assistance.

The purpose of this letter is to express PASFAA's wholehearted support for legislation which would allow for a reduction in the cost of origination fees for borrowers of unsubsidized student loans. Such legislation would enable lenders and guarantors to reduce the up front cost of student loans, thereby increasing the amount of money students would have available to them to meet their educational expenses for the 1996–97 academic year. In doing so, lenders would be providing a direct financial benefit to students without putting a corresponding burden on the federal budget or the taxpayers, making this legislation even more attractive.

This legislation would provide an immediate benefit to Pennsylvania residents receiving loan assistance through PHEAA's Keystone and Keystone Direct Loan Programs. In addition, lenders nationwide would now have the opportunity to offer low-cost loans by reducing origination fees if they so desire.